

a proclamation establishing the Ottawa National Forest as a means of reviving the barren forest. Seventy-five years later, the restoration of the Ottawa National Forest has been described as a true success story.

Now managed for multiple uses, the Ottawa National Forest provides many products and services based on its mission of caring for the land and serving people. The Ottawa National Forest also provides a great economic impact to the region. It supplies local communities both with wood products as well as jobs. Additionally, the Ottawa National Forest is an incredible draw for tourism with such recreational activities as hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, boating and snowmobiling to name a few.

Mr. Speaker, the success of the Ottawa National Forest in revitalizing the cherished natural resource of Michigan's western Upper Peninsula pine forests is a shining example of how effective a mission carried out over time and the implementation of sensible management practices can make such a significant impact in the world.

I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Ottawa National Forest employees from past and present on 75 years of living the proud tradition of the Forest Service mission and wish them all the best in the future toward another successful 75 years.

MR. BENJAMIN SOLOMON, LETTER  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW  
YORK TIMES

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues a letter that was published in the November 8th edition of the New York Times. The letter was composed by my constituent—Mr. Benjamin Solomon of Evanston, Illinois. Mr. Solomon writes about the critical importance of openness in government, the serious nature of war, and the importance of honoring our nation's veterans. I hope that the words of Mr. Solomon, who is a veteran of World War II, are taken into serious consideration.

[From the New York Times, Nov. 8, 2005]

KILLED, THEN EXPLOITED

To the Editor:

"The Mysterious Death of Pat Tillman," by Frank Rich (column, Nov. 6), left me sick at heart. I am a World War II veteran in my later 80's who still thinks of his tent mates who were lost to enemy action.

Pat Tillman, the Arizona Cardinals defensive back who volunteered for the Army, was killed last year in Afghanistan, apparently by friendly fire. The cynical exploitation of his death and the lies surrounding it are a betrayal of this brave soldier and his family, of all the others who made the same sacrifice in Iraq, and of the ideals of decency we claim for our nation.

The thought that the responsible high-level officials in the Pentagon and the White House are still in power frightens me.

BENJAMIN SOLOMON,  
Evanston, Ill., Nov. 6, 2005.

HONORING BILL FERGUSON

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my constituents and a personal friend, Bill Ferguson. Bill Ferguson, or "Fergie" as friends like to call him has had a long and distinguished career as a rancher and public servant in Ouray County, Colorado.

Bill Ferguson was raised in Colorado. In the late 1970s he settled in the town of Ridgway. While Bill worked hard as a carpenter and his wife Liza as a waitress, they were able to save enough money to start their own business. The Park Nursery Garden Center soon became the premier native nursery in the area. Fergie also established a 120 acre ranch where he and Liza continue to raise 80–100 head of cattle per year. Both his ranch and his nursery are a great asset to the county and reflect Bill's life long ethic of caring for the land he was part of.

In the 1990's, Bill was instrumental in developing a Geographical Information System program that eventually became the Southwest Data Center. The Center is still a vital tool for land use planning and management for Ouray County, surrounding governments and local citizens in Southwest Colorado.

In 1999, Bill was appointed to the Ouray Board of County Commissioners and won reelection in November of 2000. Bill fought hard for the best interest of his community through the end of his term in 2005. He worked to protect Ouray County's financial interest, preserve the open government process and helped restore the people's faith in government. As a county commissioner, Bill was noted for being the primary force behind legislation to designate Ouray County as a "Right to Farm" community, preserving the rights of farmers and ranchers to conduct their business without interference.

A water rights' owner, Bill was appointed by Ouray County for two terms to sit on the Colorado River Conservation District Board of Directors, which is the oldest and most prestigious water conservation district in Colorado. As Ouray County's representative to the Colorado River District, Bill worked on land and water conservation projects for conservations trusts. According to fellow board members, Bill was always the best joke teller—a tough title to earn on a water district board, which is typically filled with amateur comedians. Bill also served on the Colorado River Water Users Association developing GIS-based maps for educational purposes.

With such a long list of accomplishments, it is easy to see that Bill is a leader in every sense of the word, but especially when it comes to water. Bill always has helped lead the fight to protect Western Slope water. I was honored to fight alongside him on many crucial battles to defend our rural way of life.

I have been proud to know and work with Bill Ferguson on issues that are important to the Western Slope of Colorado. He has been a great personal friend, colleague and mentor on many water issues and I am honored to represent him in Congress.

GOLD FOR GREENSBORO'S JOEY  
CHEEK

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, when someone thinks sports and the Sixth District of North Carolina, most thoughts turn toward basketball, baseball and auto racing. I think it is safe to say that not many people would immediately leap to speed skating on ice. That's no longer the case, however, thanks to Joey Cheek of Greensboro. The Sixth District is now the speed skating capital of the world because Joey Cheek captured the gold medal in the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, by winning the 500 meter long-track speed skating event.

Proving he is a true champion in every sense of the word, immediately after he won the gold medal, Joey Cheek announced he was donating the \$25,000 he won from the U.S. Olympic Committee to refugee relief efforts in Africa. As reported in today's edition of the Greensboro News & Record, Joey said his thoughts are turning back to North Carolina. "I am really excited about going home," the News & Record reported. "Honestly, it doesn't even feel real. I'm so thrilled and so happy. But it doesn't seem to make sense. It's like it happened to someone else, and I'm just happy to sort of receive the good will for it. I'm just really excited and looking forward to the next couple of days to maybe realizing I'm an Olympic champion, will be forever, which is the coolest part of it."

Cheek is scheduled to compete in the 1,000 and 1,500 meter events next. In fact, the 1,000 meter race is considered to be Joey's strongest event, so there may be more Olympic hardware coming his way. Four years ago, he won the bronze medal in the Salt Lake City Olympics in the 1,000 meter race, so this gold medal is not at all surprising to those who follow the sport. Joey Cheek has been a skater since he was eight years old and used to skate in roller rinks in Greensboro. At 15, he switched to the ice and it's been a straight line to the winner's podium in Turin.

Joey's mother is in Turin to witness family history first-hand, while his father is following from his home office in Winston-Salem. Once all of the racing is completed, Joey hopes to return to Greensboro where he plans to obtain a law degree and practice law in North Carolina. Whatever he decides to do, as he has shown both on and off the ice in Italy, Joey Cheek will be a champion and the Sixth District of North Carolina is proud to call him one of our own.

UT SOUTHWESTERN, MEDICAL  
CENTER AND BAYLOR HEALTH  
CARE SYSTEM-DALLAS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute UT Southwestern Hospital and Baylor Health Care System, Dallas for their ranking in the top 5 percent of hospitals in the United States. Over

the years, both medical centers experienced phenomenal growth, fueled by people with an extraordinary vision. UT Southwestern Hospital and Baylor Health Care System received high grades for quality patient outcomes, clinical excellence, patient safety, and women's health in a survey of 5,122 nonfederal hospitals in the United States, conducted by Health Grades Inc. UT Southwestern Medical Center is the seventh-largest hospital in Dallas-Fort Worth providing inpatient hospital care to more than 90,000 people and oversees approximately 2 million outpatient visits. Annually, UT Southwestern Medical Center delivers more than 18,800 babies and provides \$282 million in unreimbursed professional service in Dallas and surrounding counties. Baylor Health Care System, established in 1903 as Texas Baptist Memorial Sanitarium, is the first health care system to provide supplemental newborn screening for more than 30 inherited metabolic diseases. Baylor provides exemplary health care with over 2,554 beds, 15,000 employees, and 3,300 physicians.

I am confident that UT Southwestern Medical Center and Baylor Health Care System will continue to provide exemplary hospital care to the North Texas community and surround areas and remain at the pinnacle of Medical institutions committed to providing compassionate health care. On behalf of the thousands of Greater Dallas Metroplex residents who have benefited from UT Southwestern Medical Center and Baylor Health Care System, I congratulate them for their contribution for improving the health of the community through high quality patient care and commitment to clinical excellence.

COMMENDING MR. EDUARDO  
"LALO" GUERRERO

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Arizona's 94th birthday to commend one of Arizona's most talented sons, Mr. Eduardo "Lalo" Guerrero, "the Father of Chicano Music."

From the beginning of his career when his first group, Los Carlistas, represented Arizona at the New York World's Fair of 1939 until his death last March, Lalo Guerrero symbolized the best of American and Latino culture. Born December 24, 1916 in Barrio Viejo, the oldest neighborhood of Tucson, Arizona, Mr. Guerrero sang songs that spoke directly to the Chicano people of the southwest throughout the course of his 60-year career.

The child of immigrants, Mr. Guerrero attributed his musical talent to his mother Concepción, who taught him to play the guitar. He has been quoted modestly, "I only wrote and sang about what I was." By doing so, Mr. Guerrero became a voice for people who rarely were shown in mainstream culture, a fact he sang about in his famous song "No Chicanos on TV."

No other Chicano artist has come close to writing and recording more great songs in virtually every genre of Latin music, including salsa, norteña, banda, rancheras, boleros, corridos, cumbias, mambos, cha chas, socially relevant songs, swing, rock & roll and blues.

In addition to being a world-class singer, he also created children's music, comedy songs and parodies.

Mr. Guerrero stood beside other great leaders in the community, among them César E. Chávez and Ruben Salazar, writing corridos about the struggles and importance of social protest. Celebrating his bicultural roots, the music pioneer and activist was the first to record bilingual songs, becoming a symbol of hope and strength to his people.

Mr. Guerrero is credited by such artists as Carlos Santana, Linda Ronstadt, and Los Lobos for opening the door for Latino musicians.

In 1996, Mr. Guerrero was awarded the National Medal of the Arts by President and Mrs. Clinton. In 1980, the Smithsonian Institution declared him a "National Folk Treasure" and he received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts in 1991.

Mr. Guerrero was inducted into the Tejano Hall of Fame and was honored with Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Mexican Cultural Institute representing the Mexican Government, Luis Valdez's The Teatro Campesino and Ricardo Montalban's Nosotros Organization among other prestigious groups. Los Angeles and his adopted home of Palm Springs, California have declared "Lalo Guerrero Day" in those cities and proclamations have been awarded from numerous other cities and organizations.

Mr. Guerrero is an American original. He is a son of this Nation, a Nation of diverse people, cultures and music. Lalo Guerrero exemplifies the richness of our country and the hope of all people. His story is a gift to us all.

HONORING DR. HENRY L. COOK, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, this President's Day marks the nineteenth annual Black History Observance in Columbus, Georgia, but it also affords us the opportunity to recognize Dr. Henry L. Cook, Jr., who has chaired the event since 1988.

For 35 years Dr. Cook has practiced dentistry in Columbus. A graduate of Tuskegee University and Meharry Medical College, he has defined excellence in his field and continues to serve on the Georgia Board of Dentistry, the Georgia Dental Association and the Georgia Medicaid Advisory Committee, among other boards and organizations.

Yet beyond his chosen profession, Dr. Cook has used his life in service to others and his community. A veteran of the United States Air Force, he has received countless distinguished service awards for his work. He has served as Chairman of the Board of the Minority Assistance Corporation, the Columbus Technical College, the Columbus Technical Foundation, the Columbus Business Development Center and the A.J. McClung YMCA and has served on the Muscogee Board of Education, the Metro Board of Health and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

As chairman of the Annual Black History Committee, Dr. Cook has cemented the legacy of African Americans into the history of

Columbus, Georgia. Under his guidance, the Annual Black History Observance, which was started by the late former Congressman Richard Ray to improve his relationship with the African-American community, has grown into a celebration of Black history that pays tribute to the individuals, organizations and institutions that have made lasting contributions to the history of Black Americans.

Dr. Cook is married to the former Mamie Richmond and has three children, Dr. Cathy L. Cook, Dr. Henry L. Cook, II and Ms. Rosa Zanders. His extraordinary legacy in dentistry continues through Cathy and Henry II, who continue the family dental practice.

This Monday, I will have the honor of presenting Dr. Henry L. Cook, Sr. with the Legacy Leadership Award and Congressman JOHN LEWIS, a true American hero and history maker, will be the featured guest speaker. However, here in this hallowed hall, I rise on behalf of the people of the Second Congressional District and the State of Georgia to honor the extraordinary contributions that Dr. Cook has made to the African-American community, the City of Columbus, the State of Georgia and our great Country. His service is a model for all and we are grateful.

TRIBUTE TO MS. AURELIA  
GREENE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 14, 2006*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise during this month dedicated to the celebration of African Americans who have made great contributions to the world, to pay tribute to New York Assemblywoman Aurelia Greene. Aurelia is a dedicated public servant who has worked tirelessly to uplift and empower her constituents.

A native of the Bronx, Aurelia is a graduate of Livingston College at Rutgers University, where she majored in community development. For the past 24 years she has served as Assemblywoman for the 77th Assembly District, effectively using her urban planning skills to negotiate on behalf of her constituents for affordable housing, quality education, employment opportunities, affordable healthcare, senior services, and improved transportation and infrastructure.

As a member of the State Assembly, Aurelia is known for her strong work ethic and robust legislative agenda. She authored legislation, which became law in 2002, prohibiting predatory lending practices in relation to high cost home loans. In addition, she was instrumental in ensuring the passage of the Apprenticeship bill, which provided funds for supplemental and related instruction to apprentices registered by the New York State Department of Labor. And in 1994, she was awarded a gold helmet by the New York State Head Injury Association for her bicycle helmet legislation.

As a result of her competence as a legislator and considerable personal charm, Aurelia has been successful in rising through the ranks of the New York State Assembly. She previously served as Deputy Majority Leader and is the first woman to chair the Assembly Standing Committee on Banks. In addition, she recently became the first African American